Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of performing a management task, the task modifying information associated with one or more back-end resources in a distributed network, the method comprising:

receiving information from a first resource related to a first task, the first task for a first managed object of a predetermined object type, wherein the information received from the first resource indicates whether the first resource is used to perform the management task;

receiving information from a second resource related to a second task, the second task associated with the first managed object, wherein the information received from the second resource indicates whether the second resource is used to perform the management task;

storing in a memory the information received from the second resource in association with the information received from the first resource;

receiving a request to perform the management task in relation to the first managed object;

determining, based on the stored information, which of the first and second resource to call in response to the request; and

sending a task request to the determined resource to perform the management task on the first managed object, wherein the sending occurs after receiving information from the first resource and receiving information from the second resource.

2.   (Original)   A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a request to display task information related to the first object; and

displaying task information received from both back-end resources in response to the request to display task information.

3.   (Original)   A method as defined in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises

receiving static task information related to the object type of the first managed object;

storing the static task information in a task store;

receiving dynamic task information related to the first managed object, the dynamic task information including a task handler identification within the back-end resource; and

in response to the request to display task information, displaying both static and dynamic task information.

4.   (Original)   A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the task handler identification is a pointer to some executable code on the first resource.

5.   (Original)   A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the task handler identification relates to executable code on the first resource and the second resource.

6.   (Original)   A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the method further comprises:

in response to the request to display task information, retrieving static task information from the task store;

sending a request for dynamic task information to one of the resources using the handler identification, the request including instance information for the first managed object; and

receiving dynamic task information for the instance of the first managed object.

7.   (Original)   A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprising:

associating a first management task with a second management task; and

storing a script function, wherein the script function is callable and performs both the first management task and the second management task.

8.   (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product readable by a computer and~~storage medium encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 1.

9.   (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product readable by a computer and~~storage medium encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 2.

10.   (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product readable by a computer and~~storage medium encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 3.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product readable by a computer and~~storage medium encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 6.

12.   (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product readable by a computer and~~storage medium encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 7.

13.   (Currently Amended) In a network environment having multiple resources, a computer ~~program product readable by a computer and~~storage medium encoding instructions for executing a method, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a new resource ~~notification that a~~ to install the new resource ~~has been installed~~ on the network environment, the request being in a predetermined format;

including in the request ~~the installation process including~~ communication information associated with the new resource;

verifying the installation of the new resource;

retrieving task information associated with the new resource, wherein the task information relates to an object type managed by the new resource;

storing in a memory the task information associated with the new resource; and

sharing the task information with another resource on the network.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product~~storage medium as defined in claim 13 wherein the notification includes the task information.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product~~storage medium as defined in claim 13, the method further comprising:

> determining whether the task information relates to an existing managed object type;

> if so, associating the task information with the existing object type; and

if not, associating the task information with a new object type.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product~~storage medium as defined in claim 15 further comprising:

> receiving a request to perform a management task with respect to an object type; and

> performing the management task with respect to all instances of the object type.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product~~storage medium as defined in claim 15 further comprising:

> receiving a request to display available tasks for an object type; and

> displaying the management tasks available with respect to the object type.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for task-based management of a plurality of resources comprising:

> a management module in communication with the plurality of resources, wherein each of the resources are ~~associated with a plurality of~~ configured to provide information corresponding to the management of a plurality of objects associated with each of the resources, wherein at least one of the plurality of objects is a user object that contains information corresponding to a network user, and wherein the management module is

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capable of receiving a request to access the information related to one or more of the plurality of resources and to receive task information from the plurality of resources related to their associated objects;

wherein in response to receipt of a request to perform a network administration task, the management module performing task functions on the associated objects of more than one resource; and

a scripting manager for combining the task functions into a single script function.

19. (Previously presented) A system as defined in claim 18, wherein the management module comprises a task manager to receive and store task information, the task manager further communicates with the resources to perform the network administration task.

20. (Original) A system as defined in claim 19 wherein each of the plurality of resources provides information to the task manager in XML format.

Claim 21. (Canceled)